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MONTHLY RECORD OF ANALYTICAL RESEARCHES INTO DRUGS.

Determination of Morphine in Opium.—On comparing the methods of E. Merk, Hager-Godeffroy, the *Pharmacopœa Austriaca*, and the one proposed by himself, V. Perger (Jour. f. prakt. Chem.), finds most surprising differences in results obtained. The author's method is as follows: The opium is heated with barium hydrate and water, filtered, and washed with hot water. The filtrate containing all morphine, is saturated with carbon dioxide, and the whole rapidly evaporated to dryness on a water-bath. The dried mass is extracted with absolute alcohol, and the alcoholic filtrate freed from alcohol by distillation. The residue is allowed to stand some time with ammonia water, brought upon a filter, washed with water containing ammonia, then with chloroform, then dried and weighed. This crude morphine may be purified by dissolving in acetic acid, adding a few drops of potassium ferrocyanide, filtering, neutralizing the filtrate with ammonia, and allowing the morphine to crystallize out, collecting the crystals upon a filter, drying and weighing.

W. H. D.

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* Chem. Zeitung.

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A REACTION FOR CHLORAL HYDRATE.—By M. HIRSCHFELD.—Archiv der Pharm. [1885]. 223. Hft. 1, p. 26.—If to a solution of chloral hydrate, calcium sulphydrate, Ca $(SH)^2$(Rhusma) be added, a red colour is produced on standing half-a-minute, which afterwards turns purple-red. The filtered solution contains the colour. A weaker, but still visible reaction is obtained, when first sulphuretted hydrogen and then lime-water is added. After about a minute, the liquid becomes reddish pink.

F. H. H.

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